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Zuckerberg Apologises Over CSAM, Deepfake Lapses

New Delhi / New York: Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has reportedly apologised over the presence of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), deepfake content and other operational lapses across Meta platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, during high-level discussions with Indian authorities. According to Times Now, citing government and PTI sources, Zuckerberg expressed regret over the issues during or in connection with meetings held today. The report also said Meta representatives acknowledged that significant sums had been paid to promote certain categories of content. During the discussions, Indian officials reportedly warned that Meta could risk losing its intermediary, or "safe harbour", protections under the Information Technology Act if it is found to actively control the selection and distribution of content rather than acting solely as a neutral platform. According to Times



Now, officials argued that if Meta decides which users receive specific content, it may not qualify for intermediary protection under Indian law. The meetings also reportedly covered the temporary removal or restriction of a video posted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which remained unavailable for around four to five hours before being restored. According to India Today, Meta attributed the incident to a technical error involving its automated filtering systems.

Rahul Gandhi's Clear No To Kiren Rijiju's Delimitation Bill Request Amid House Logjam

New Delhi: As the Parliament deadlock entered its third week of the Monsoon Session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday reached out to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in a bid to find a way out of the logjam, sources said. Sources said Rijiju met Gandhi in his chamber shortly after the Lok Sabha was adjourned within minutes of assembling amid Opposition sloganeering. According to sources, Rijiju sought the Congress's cooperation on the Delimitation Bill and the Women's Reservation Amendment Bill that the government is keen to bring again in the current session. Rahul Gandhi, however, rejected the government's request outright, according to the sources. The Leader of Opposition told Kiren Rijiju that there can be no business in the House until there is a discussion on the alleged donation theft at the Ram Mandir and a statement by Home Minister Amit Shah on police action against students during the July 20 protest in the Capital, sources said. After meet-



ing Rahul Gandhi, Kiren Rijiju met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Home Minister to discuss the Parliament standoff, sources added. The unyielding Opposition has put a spanner in the government's plan to pass the Delimitation Bill in this session. On the back of new numbers in the House, thanks to defections from the Trinamool Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, the government had, as per sources, hoped to push through the contentious bill that failed in the last session. The Opposition has been targeting Amit Shah over the crack-down on students, demanding a statement from

him in the House. The government has rejected the Opposition's charge, saying it is the magistrate who decides on the use of force during a protest, not the Home Minister. The Opposition, led by the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, has also been attacking the Centre over the alleged donation theft at the Ram Mandir and has been demanding a discussion on the subject. For several days, Opposition MPs have been protesting with symbolic donation boxes inside the Parliament complex to target the government. Since the Monsoon Session began on July 20, the Lok Sabha has not been able to complete Question

Hour. Five bills have been passed without discussion amid the din. Lok Sabha proceedings were again adjourned on Wednesday as the Opposition continued its sloganeering over various issues, including police action against students. As soon as the House met, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked members to return to their seats and allow the House to take up Question Hour. "Sloganeering, whether inside or outside the House, is not good for democracy. By showing placards and sloganeering, you are lowering the dignity of the House," Birla told Opposition members.

'Will March To Ranchi'

Abhijeet Dipke Says CJP Will Back Jharkhand Protests



Mumbai / Ranchi: Abhijeet Dipke said the state of politics in India was "very bad". Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday announced that members from his group will march to Jharkhand to support protesting job aspirants, who have been staging an indefinite sit-in in Ranchi since July 29 against exam irregularities. "We will definitely go to Jharkhand, we will stand with them and support their every demand in the agitation," he said. Talking to reporters in his hometown Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra ahead of a CJP core team meeting, Dipke said he supported protesting students in

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said his movement will operate as a "pressure group" to demand institutional accountability.

Jharkhand. He also assured that the GenZ movement will operate as a "pressure group" to demand institutional accountability. "People have lost faith in the judiciary, politics, media and the Election Commission. Our agitation received nationwide support. As the agitation grew, the support was not merely limited to education issues, it was also about these institutions.

'Irresponsible Remarks Are Unacceptable'

Bhanu Prakash Reddy Criticizes Prakash Raj

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 5: A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders submitted a complaint to Andhra Pradesh Cyber Crime Director General Ravi Shankar regarding social media posts about Hindu deities and remarks allegedly made by actor Prakash Raj. The complaint, containing details of 57 individuals, was submitted by BJP leaders Bhanu Prakash Reddy, Valluru Jayaprakash, Sheikh Baji, and Srinivasa Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board Member Bhanu Prakash Reddy said that Lord Sri Rama is revered as a central deity in Indian culture, while Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Lakshmi, and Goddess Sita are regarded with the respect accorded to mothers.



Demand for Strict Action Bhanu Prakash Reddy alleged that objectionable remarks were being made against Hindu deities and said the videos were difficult to watch. He stated that making derogatory or irresponsible comments about Hindu gods was unacceptable. He also issued a strong warning, saying that such remarks would not be tol-

erated. Bhanu Prakash Reddy accused Prakash Raj of making offensive comments about Lord Sri Rama, alleging that he had made statements claiming Lord Rama came from North India to South India and stole fruits. He challenged Prakash Raj to speak about alleged injustices faced by followers of other religions if he had the courage to do so.

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, August 5: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh called upon the youth of the state to become active participants in the global digital economy. He was speaking at the inauguration of the new IBM Consulting Future Now Center in Visakhapatnam. Addressing the gathering, Lokesh said the new IBM facility would help position Visakhapatnam as a global hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital services, and technology-driven innovation. The minister said the coalition government aims to build a comprehensive ecosystem that attracts technology investments, creates high-quality employment opportunities, develops future-ready talent, and enables the youth of Andhra Pradesh to become an integral part of the global digital economy. He



welcomed IBM's continued commitment to Andhra Pradesh and said the government looks forward to working closely with the company to make Visakhapatnam one of India's leading centers for AI and digital transformation. IBM Future Now Center

to Support Global AI and Digital Transformation The IBM Consulting Future Now Center has been established to support IBM's global consulting services and AI-first transformation projects. The facility marks another significant step in the company's continued investment in

India's technology innovation ecosystem and skilled workforce. The center will provide consulting and technology services to clients worldwide across key domains, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Hybrid Cloud, Software Engineering, Data and Analytics, Cybers

ecurity, and Enterprise Transformation. It will also serve as a major hub for AI-driven cloud transformation, platform engineering, service integration, quality engineering, and user experience services, strengthening Visakhapatnam's position as a technology and innovation destination.

No Separate Law for Backward Classes Exists Anywhere in India: Minister Atchannaidu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 5: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said there is no separate law for Backward Classes (BCs) anywhere in the country. Addressing the media on Wednesday, he shared details of the proposed BC Protection Act. The minister said the government has been working intensively for the past two years on the proposed legislation. He alleged that during the 2019-2024 period, weaker sections were subjected to



targeted harassment and repression. He said the coalition government had promised in its election manifesto to enact a

special law for the welfare and protection of weaker sections and had also constituted a sub-committee to address their issues. According to Atchannaidu, the committee held extensive discussions on the challenges faced by weaker sections in society. Draft Bill to Be Finalized After Wider Consultations he minister said that N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) introduced reservations for Backward Classes,

while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu increased BC reservations to 27 percent. He stated that nearly 70 percent of Andhra Pradesh's population belongs to weaker sections. The government intends to seek the views of not only legislators but also all stakeholders before finalizing the legislation. Atchannaidu said the government is also consulting the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) before

placing the draft Bill in the State Legislative Assembly. He added that every effort would be made to ensure effective implementation of the proposed law. The sub-committee has been instructed to interact with organizations representing weaker sections in every district, explain the proposed legislation to the public, and gather their suggestions. The minister said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has always stood firmly with the weaker sections of society.

REMZ Project Key to Prakasam District's Development: Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

From Our Staff Reporter Prakasam, August 5: Andhra Pradesh Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government is making efforts to establish a Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zone (REMZ) in the Addanki region of Prakasam district. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, the minister said the government has transparently paid Rs.31.57 crore in compensation to farmers who provided land for the project. He stated that the proposed solar equipment manufacturing hub is set to become one of the state's most significant industrial projects. Ravi Kumar said several in-



vestors and companies have already shown interest in the project. Once completed, it will generate large-scale direct and indirect employment opportunities for local youth. The minister reiterated that the coalition government's goal is to create 2 million (20 lakh) jobs

across the state. He added that the government is committed to protecting farmers' interests while promoting industrial development. According to Gottipati Ravi Kumar, the REMZ project will play a crucial role in accelerating the industrial development of Prakasam district.

EDITORIAL

Commonwealth Success, Bigger Tests Ahead

India finishing fourth in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, with 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze medals, is a matter of great pride. Compared to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games held four years ago, India's overall medal tally has declined. While India won 61 medals then, it secured 39 medals this time. However, this should not diminish the achievements of Indian athletes. It is important to remember that while 21 sports were contested in the previous edition, this year's Games featured competitions in only 10 disciplines as part of cost-cutting measures. Sports such as hockey, badminton, wrestling, table tennis, and shooting, which traditionally contribute a large share of India's medals, were not included this time. Despite these limitations, retaining the fourth position is a remarkable achievement. The performance of Indian boxers deserves special appreciation. They won 10 medals, including seven gold medals, showcasing exceptional talent. India also secured two gold medals in judo, while athletes delivered consistent performances in athletics. Indian sporting excellence, which was once largely confined to disciplines such as weightlifting and wrestling, has now expanded across a wider range of sports. Indian women, who previously excelled mainly in athletics and weightlifting, also won medals in boxing and judo this time. India's para-athletes once again demonstrated extraordinary determination by overcoming physical challenges and bringing glory to the national flag. The country won seven medals in para sports, including three gold, two silver, and two bronze medals, with women contributing two medals. These achievements clearly show that greater investment, scientific training, and modern sports infrastructure for para-athletes can enable India to perform even better at international competitions.

However, there is no need for excessive celebration over the Commonwealth Games. These Games are not the ultimate measure of global sporting excellence. They are limited competitions among Commonwealth nations, and sporting powerhouses such as the United States, China, Japan, France, and Germany do not participate. Winning medals at the Commonwealth Games is undoubtedly a significant achievement, but assuming that it establishes India's dominance in world sports would be unrealistic. India's true stature will be measured by its performances at the Olympic Games and World Championships. In that context, although not as prestigious as the Olympics, the upcoming Asian Games in Japan will serve as an important benchmark for Indian athletes.

The competition at the Asian Games will be far tougher than at the Commonwealth Games. Indian athletes will have to compete against sporting giants such as China, Japan, and South Korea. With the confidence gained from Glasgow, Indian athletes should enter the Asian Games determined to prove their abilities. Success there will provide a strong foundation for future Olympic achievements. Sporting success is never achieved overnight. It requires long-term planning, quality coaching, scientific training, and a strong sports policy.

The Commonwealth Games have certainly provided a welcome boost to Indian sports. However, turning this achievement into complacency would be a mistake. If India aspires to become a global sporting power, every success must become a stepping stone toward a greater goal. The medals won in Glasgow will acquire lasting significance only if the Indian Tricolour flies even higher at the Asian Games in Japan and, ultimately, at the Olympic Games. That alone will represent the true success of Indian sports.

Vijay's Udhayanidhi Arrest May Not Be A 'Blunder' After All

On the face of it, Udhayanidhi Stalin's show of strength through an impromptu mini-roadshow of sorts in Thanjavur, after securing bail and return to Chennai within 12 hours of his arrest, can be seen as a setback to the Joseph Vijay government. In cricketing parlance, the televised arrest and the "road trip" to Thanjavur are being interpreted as Vijay having given a free hit to the DMK. Stalin Junior's smirk to the continuous chant of "Trisha, Trisha" by the DMK cadre during a Cauvery protest meeting in Thanjavur on Monday, and his loaded comment that smacked of sexual innuendos, had angered the TVK cadre. The party had also lodged a complaint with the National Commission for Women seeking its intervention "regarding objectifying and sexually suggestive remarks" made by the Leader of Opposition. Hence, the party faithful were left stumped when the TVK government took a U-turn in court and denied any plan to send Udhayanidhi to judicial custody. The station bail that followed was, then, a mere formality. Nonetheless, the DMK leadership did not miss the opportunity to turn the occasion into a show of strength. In any case, the case stood on weak legs. While a case could be filed for defamation, the arrest was seen as an overreach - more so when politicians are known to milk such arrests to generate sympathy and emerge stronger.

A Self-Goal? Maybe Not
It is, therefore, felt that the TVK government showed its



lack of political acumen by raising the political temperature, allowing the DMK an opportunity to score a political goal, that too a day before the Tamil Nadu assembly's budget session was to start. The DMK has been groping in the dark since its humiliating exit from power in May, and many TVK supporters feel that the arrest episode only provided it with political oxygen, galvanising the cadre-based party to allege that Vijay had made the move only because he was scared of facing Stalin in the assembly. Even TVK allies, like the Congress, and non-allies like the PMK felt that while the remark was in bad taste, the arrest was unnecessary. Given the manner in which the DMK cadre rallied around

him, it also elevated Udhayanidhi's political stature. Till now, he was only known as Karunanidhi's grandson and Stalin's son, who owed his earlier position as Deputy Chief Minister and present position as Leader of Opposition, to his family name.

So, did Vijay and the TVK commit political harakiri?

I see it more as a case of Vijay testing the waters. Tuesday made the TVK leadership understand how exactly the DMK reacts under pressure and mobilises its forces in every district. For too long, Vijay has been dismissed as a movie actor who stormed to power riding on his personal popularity as an actor. For many months, the visuals of Vijay

taking the flight out of Trichy airport to Chennai soon after the stampede in Karur in September that killed 41 people, has been cited as proof that he was a "coward". Speaking to reporters at the same Trichy airport on Tuesday night, Udhayanidhi repeated the charge, highlighting that he, in contrast, was not one to run away. The arrest saga was thus Vijay borrowing a leaf from the Jayalalithaa handbook, and establishing that he is no push-over and can be a strict administrator. The episode was designed to send a message to the DMK that even their top leadership could be touched if they crossed the line. This would make other DMK leaders such as Senthil Balaji and

Anitha Radhakrishnan, who are out on bail, nervous.

Choosing His Opponent

More importantly, what the DMK does not realise is that Vijay, by sending the cops after Udhayanidhi, has fortified his women constituency. Women played a significant part in bringing him to power, and the Chief Minister has sought to emphasise that anyone who talks loosely about women or abuses them or threatens them will be shown his place. This episode is a way of showing that no one, including the scion of a powerful political family, will be spared. In the past, politicians such as the BJP's Nainar Nagendran and the AIADMK's CV Shanmugam made comments in bad taste about female actors.

Bankipur, And Why The Most Dangerous Voter Is The One Who Thinks Again

"If your vote doesn't change your life or your situation, then you need to change your vote." Democracy doctrines like this one come true more as an exception than as a rule. Since voter fatigue is slow to grow and voters' tolerance slow to fade, these doctrines most often end up being mocked or trolled. But history has enough evidence to prove that when the exception does arrive, it changes not just one game but the rules of the game. On Monday, Jan Surraaj Party founding chief Prashant Kishor defeated his rival from the BJP in the Bankipur bypoll. Headlines sang in chorus. The BJP lost its 31-year-old bastion. The win had an umami taste to it, as just seven months ago, each one of his 238 candidates in the Bihar Assembly polls had lost. That's why, when the result came in, I wondered and hoped. Is the doctrine having its moment in the sun? Is it a flash in the pan or the start of a phenomenon?

Bihar Has Been Here Before

Naysayers have always scoffed and asked, "Bihar mein ka ba?" ("What's there in Bihar?"). But everyone who has invested thought without prejudice and looked beyond the abject apathy and poverty in Bihar knows that, despite it being the top BIMARU state, and irrespective of the asphyxiating talons of caste in the state's politics, once in a while, the voter recovers and delivers a moment to romance electoral democracy. It may not last. It may mutate into something good, bad, or ugly. I was in Bihar covering the February 1990 assembly polls. It was an "exceptional moment" in India's poorest state, home to people crushed by the absence of basic necessities, hope, and a state that cared. Then, the children of indifferent gods didn't just transfer power into the hands of the Mandalites or

dethrone the dominant demography by breaking the upper caste's grip over the state - they wiped out the Congress so decisively that the party, till date, has not been able to make even a feeble recovery in Bihar or neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. I stumbled upon that clinching evidence, that the voter crafts democratic destinies, days after Lalu Prasad took oath on March 10, 1990, as Chief Minister. That day, he had reached Phulwaria, his native village. We were in tow. A crowd, consisting largely of dust-covered, shirtless, barefoot kids with matted hair and bright, hopeful eyes, watched and cheered in amazement.

'Hathua Raja'

Lalu was the Chief Minister. The state was his stage. As if the curtain had just lifted, in a showman-like moment, he went towards a grazing buffalo. With a quick jump, he was on its back. The procession started. Inside his less-than-humble home, his mother was cooking a meal. Lalu wanted to tell her, "I am now Bihar's Chief Minister." But the expanse of his mother's world geography was limited. She didn't know what Bihar or a Chief Minister meant. Lalu resolved the situation. He told her, "I have become the raja of Hathua." She knew about the Hathua Raj zamindari estate belonging to the Baghochia clan of Bhumihar Brahmins. Lalu wanted to convey that he was the most powerful man in the state. The most powerful man his mother knew was the "Hathua Raja". Sitting in that house that day, I realised the power the voters had unseathed. Sitting today in the newsroom, I have empirical evidence that the change they brought about that day in February 1990 has redesigned Indian politics. The jury is out on whether the change was good, bad, or ugly. For Prashant Kishor or the JSP, replicating



Bankipur, or the impact the Mandal and Mandir issues had across Bihar, will be a Herculean task. But I would love to romance the outcome of the Bankipur bypoll, just because the voters preferred to pick a candidate and changed their choice of party. They had a reason beyond caste for their vote in a caste cauldron like Bihar. Every checkbox said Bankipur was a BJP bastion. Urban in character, like no other in Bihar. The state CM's residence, the state's university, iconic Gandhi Maidan, and the hefty real estate around it all fall in Bankipur. It also had a perfect caste arithmetic for the BJP. The upper-caste vote ranges between 35% and 40%. With Nitish Kumar on its side, the BJP controlled a captive 50% of the votes. Then there was another advantage. Out of the 40% upper-caste vote, the Kayasthas account for 14-15%. And since 1995, the BJP's candidate for Patna West, the earlier avatar of Bankipur, was Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha, a Kayastha. In 2010, Bankipur voted for the first time after the delimitation exercise in Bihar. And the first winner was Nitin Nabin, the current BJP national president. Bankipur was won a

whopping nine times in 31 years by him and his father.

Everything Was In BJP's Favour, Until It Wasn't

The odds seemed stacked in favour of the BJP. The BJP had its first Bihar Chief Minister, Samrat Chowdhary, manning the fort. The BJP-JD(U)-LJP alliance had routed the INDIA bloc, especially the RJD, just seven months ago. Many say the BJP lost because it was complacent. Before polling, most leaders felt that in Bankipur, the "lotus symbol" was the factor, not the name or face of the candidate. The party entered the contest in a mess. When Nitin Nabin quit Bankipur for a Rajya Sabha membership, the BJP fielded Ashutosh Bunty as its first pick. But then he bowed out. His father was an accused in a scam involving Lalu Prasad. His party feared Prashant Kishor would make corruption a poll plank. Party sources say the party president picked Neeraj Kumar Sinha as the replacement. To compensate, the BJP pushed a large number of leaders to campaign towards countering Kishor's direct-contact-with-voters outreach. But the BJP failed to gauge the depth and width of voter discontent.

During the campaign, the most frequently heard refrain in the constituency among BJP supporters was: "The party needs to be taught a lesson." In various parts of the constituency, during morning walks, elders were heard expressing a sense of hurt over the exaggerated swagger of the BJP leadership. An ex-professor at Patna University who operates a literature club had told me during a phone call barely a week before polling, "Voters of this constituency don't battle for bijli [electricity], sadak [roads] and paani [water]. They pick Ravi Shankar Prasad as their MP because of the IQ and worldview he brings. That has been the overarching factor. There is caste and ideological loyalty beneath it. But if the party takes the voters for granted, then splintering happens. They won't opt for the RJD, but Prashant Kishor becomes a credible option."

Fundamental Matters

The BJP's success for 31 years hinged on the demographic composition of this seat. The mood among the upper castes, a literate and relatively affluent voter block, shifted because of other factors as well.

Flood Relief Measures Ensured Without Disruption in Chintoor Division: Collector K. Dinesh Kumar



Rampachodavaram, August 5: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that the district administration ensured comprehensive flood relief measures in the four mandals of Chintoor Division, preventing hardships to flood-affected families by shifting them to safer locations and providing essential supplies. Addressing the media on Wednesday, the Collector said that immediately after the first flood warning was issued, the administration identified vulnerable areas in Chintoor, Kunavaram, VR Puram, and Etapaka mandals. Under the supervision of Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, ITDA Project Officer Shubham Nokwal, and Chintoor SP B. Hemanth, officials were mobilized to evacuate residents from inundated villages and coordinate relief operations. A total of 17 Sector Officers were deployed to monitor relief activities,

while wireless communication systems were established to ensure uninterrupted coordination. The administration arranged 22 boats and tractors for transporting both flood victims and essential commodities to inaccessible areas.

The Collector said that 1,664.403 metric tonnes of rice were made available for distribution to affected families. Drinking water, electricity, and 65 special medical camps were organized across the four mandals. Livestock in vulnerable villages were also shifted to safer places as a precautionary measure.

According to the Collector, assistance was extended to 10,828 flood-affected families, while 11,801 kilograms of essential commodities were distributed. The district administration also established 15 relief camps and evacuated 2,124 people from severely inundated areas.

Special attention was given to vulnerable groups, with 149 pregnant women identified and shifted to nearby Primary Health Centres to ensure uninterrupted medical care.

As floodwaters have now receded, the district administration has restored electricity and drinking water facilities in affected villages and is continuing sanitation drives to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. A detailed report on the flood situation has also been submitted to the State Government. Collector K. Dinesh Kumar appreciated the coordinated efforts of officials from various departments, police personnel, medical teams, and field staff for their dedicated service in ensuring timely relief and rehabilitation for flood-affected people.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples to be Celebrated in a Grand Manner



Rampachodavaram, August 5: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to organize the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples with diverse cultural programmes showcasing the rich heritage, history, traditions, and lifestyle of tribal communities in Rampachodavaram. Reviewing the arrangements at the ITDA office on Wednesday, the Collector said the celebrations should feature exhibitions on the

Rampa Rebellion, cultural performances inspired by Alluri Sitarama Raju, traditional tribal dances, folk arts, indigenous food festivals, and sports events. He also stressed active participation of tribal communities and coordinated efforts by all government departments to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations with adequate sanitation, drinking water, security, and medical facilities.

Special Measures for Women's Safety at Dwaraka Bus Station



Visakhapatnam, August 5: City Police Commissioner Shankhara Bagchi inspected the APSRTC Dwaraka Bus Station on Wednesday and reviewed the security arrangements for passengers. The Commissioner directed officials to strengthen surveillance through CCTV cameras and instructed them to set up a Women's Safety Kiosk near

the police check post under CCTV monitoring. He also called for increased police patrolling at Dwaraka Bus Station and other major bus terminals in the city. After reviewing passenger amenities and cleanliness, the Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the maintenance standards and suggested further measures to enhance passenger safety.

Collector Expresses Concern Over Staff Attendance

Paderu, August 5: District Collector T. Nishanthi expressed dissatisfaction over the poor attendance of Secretariat staff and directed officials to submit daily attendance reports to the Joint Collector for the next one week. Reviewing departmental performance on Wednesday, the Collector instructed all government employees, from field-level staff to district officials, to attend duties regularly and discharge their responsibilities efficiently. She also directed officials to closely monitor the attendance of teachers and medical staff, prepare action plans for underperforming departments, and warned that disciplinary action would be taken against employees who remain absent from duty without valid reasons.



Collector Launches Sanitation Awareness Song



Kakinada, August 5: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad launched a special awareness song promoting cleanliness and scientific waste management across the district. The Collector said sanitation is everyone's responsibility and stressed that public participation is essential for building a clean district. He urged people to segregate wet and dry waste, explaining that wet waste can be converted into vermicompost while dry waste can be recycled through the Swachha Ratham initiative, turning waste into useful resources.

Mediation Offers Permanent Solution to Disputes: Magistrate Murali Gangadhara Rao



Rampachodavaram, August 5: Emphasising the importance of mediation in resolving disputes, Murali Gangadhara Rao, Chairman of the Mandal Legal Services Authority and Judicial First Class Magistrate, Rampachodavaram, said mediation provides a permanent, amicable, and cost-effective solution without prolonged litigation. As part of the nationwide "Mediation for Nation 3.0" campaign, a 1K Walk and Bike Rally were organised on Wednesday with the participation of advocates, court staff, and police personnel. A Mediation Awareness Stall was also set up on the court premises to educate the public

about the benefits of resolving disputes through mediation.

Addressing the gathering, the Magistrate said that mediation helps save time, money, and effort by enabling both parties to reach a mutually acceptable settlement. He encouraged people to make use of mediation instead of engaging in lengthy court battles, stating that it offers a lasting resolution while promoting harmony.

Several advocates, court officials, police personnel, and members of the legal fraternity participated in the awareness programme.

Breastfeeding Should Begin Within One Hour of Birth: Collector



Rampachodavaram, August 5: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar urged mothers to initiate breastfeeding within one hour of childbirth and exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months. The Collector launched the World Breastfeeding Week awareness wall poster at the ITDA Conference Hall in Rampachodavaram on Wednesday. He emphasized that breast milk is the best source of

nutrition and immunity for newborns and advised mothers to maintain proper hygiene before feeding. He said awareness programmes on the importance of breastfeeding are being conducted through Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, and Anganwadi Centres across all eight ICDS projects in the district. Senior district officials were present at the programme.

Mega Job Fair in Visakhapatnam on August 7

Visakhapatnam, August 5: District In-charge Collector Gobbilla Vidyadhari announced that a Mega Job Fair will be held on August 7 at the District Employment Office campus, Girls ITI, Kancharapalem, from 10:00 a.m. Leading companies, including Foxconn, Flipkart, Apollo Pharmacy, D-Mart, SBI Cards, Varun Motors, Navata Road Transport, and others, will recruit candidates for various positions. Eligible candidates with qualifica-

tions ranging from SSC to Degree, Diploma, and ITI are invited to attend with their résumé, educational certificates, and passport-size photographs. The Collector urged unemployed youth to make the best use of the employment opportunity.



Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone for PV Sindhu Sports Academy

Visakhapatnam, August 5: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for badminton star P. V. Sindhu's Centre for Sports Excellence at Arilova, Visakhapatnam, on Wednesday. Joined by P. V. Sindhu and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, Lokesh inaugurated the project and reviewed the academy's plans. The upcoming world-class facility will feature international-standard badminton courts, a gymnasium, sports science labs, hostel accommodation, and training infrastructure for athletes across multiple sports.



Chief Secretary Reviews Independence Day Preparations in Capital

Guntur, Aug. 5: GAD Chief Secretary J. Shyamala Rao reviewed the arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations



at the Capital Parade Grounds on Wednesday. Accompanied by CRDA Commissioner Vijaya Rama Raju, District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma, SP Vakul Jindal, and other senior officials, she inspected the venue and directed departments to ensure flawless parade arrangements, proper seating, drinking water, sanitation, parking, and traffic management. She also instructed officials to complete departmental tableaux and present them during the final rehearsal on August 13, emphasizing coordination among all departments for the successful conduct of the national event.

Orientation Programme Held for Lateral Entry Students and Parents

Visakhapatnam, August 5: Vignan Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous) conducted a Parents-Students Orientation Programme for newly admitted second-year B.Tech lateral entry students and their parents. The programme introduced participants to the institute's academic regulations, mentoring system, campus facilities, industry-oriented training, placement opportunities, research activities, and student support services. Chairman Dr. Lavu Rattaiah welcomed the students and urged them to make the best use of the institution's academic and skill development opportunities, while faculty members encouraged students to maintain discipline, regular attendance, and continuous learning to build successful careers.



Grand Independence Day Celebrations Planned in Polavaram District



Rampachodavaram, August 5: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to organize the first Independence Day celebrations after the formation of the district in a grand and patriotic manner. Reviewing the arrangements on Wednesday, the Collector instructed officials to conduct a Guard of Honour, parade, tableaux,

cultural programmes, police band, dog squad demonstrations, and fire service displays. He also emphasized active participation of students from tribal welfare institutions and government schools, and directed all departments to coordinate effectively to ensure the successful conduct of the celebrations.

Collector Calls for Planned Preparations for Census 2027

Vijayawada, Aug. 5: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to implement Census 2027 preparations in a planned manner and prepare the District Census Handbook as an authentic reference document. Addressing a one-day workshop at the Collectorate on Wednesday, he stressed the importance of collecting accurate data on social, economic, educational, healthcare, agriculture, industry, and infrastructure sectors. He instructed officials to verify all information through the concerned departments, conduct phased training programmes, and ensure close coordination for reliable and comprehensive census data.



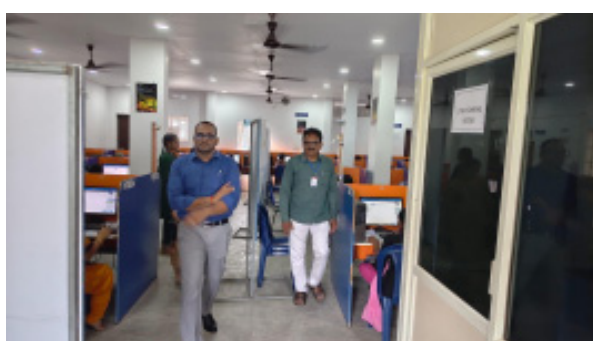
IG Reviews Ballikurava Police Station, Focuses on Law & Order and Road Safety



Ongole, Aug. 5: Guntur Range Inspector General of Police Sarvashrestha Tripathi conducted a surprise inspection of Ballikurava Police Station under the Santamaguluru Circle on Tuesday night. He reviewed law and order, crime prevention measures, pending investigations, and instructed officers to strengthen surveillance on habitual offenders and suspicious activities. The IG also directed police to intensify enforcement against speeding, drunken driving, and helmet and seatbelt violations to reduce road accidents. He emphasized community policing, prompt response to public complaints, and effective night patrolling to enhance public safety and confidence.

TET Exams to be Conducted Smoothly with Strict Arrangements: Collector

Kakinada, August 5: District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to conduct the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) in a peaceful and foolproof manner without any untoward incidents. The Collector inspected the TET examination centre at Achutapuram and reviewed the arrangements at the online digital zone. He instructed officials to ensure necessary facilities for candidates, maintain strict security, and prevent entry of mobile phones and electronic devices into examination halls. He also stressed that candidates should be able to appear for the exam in a calm and stress-free environment.



Prakasam SP Calls for Tree Plantation to Protect Environment

Ongole, Aug. 5: Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju urged people to plant and nurture trees to protect the environment and increase oxygen levels. Participating in the Mission Haritha Andhra plantation drive at the District Police Office on Wednesday, he said reducing vehicle emissions and minimizing plastic use are essential to control pollution. He stressed that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility and called on citizens to not only plant saplings but also ensure their growth. Police officers, staff, and students participated in the programme.



Guntur to Enforce Single-Use Plastic Ban Strictly from August 17

Guntur, Aug. 5: Guntur Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok announced that the ban on single-use plastic will be enforced strictly across the city from August 17. A special Task Force comprising Deputy Commissioners, Health Officers, and Sanitary Supervisors has been formed to prevent the manufacture, storage, transport, sale, and use of banned plastic items. Special inspection teams will conduct raids on warehouses, wholesale and retail shops, and street vendors. Violators will face seizure of banned materials, heavy fines through the Swachh Guntur App, and legal action for repeated offences. Awareness programmes are also being conducted across all wards to encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives.



Serve with Dedication, Earn People's Trust: Collector

Guntur, August 5: Guntur District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma advised the 2026 Group-I probationary officers to work with dedication, integrity, and a people-centric approach to leave a lasting impact through public service. Interacting with the trainee officers during their field visit on Wednesday, the Collector stressed the importance of identifying root causes of problems and providing long-term solutions. Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava encouraged the officers to maintain a healthy work-life balance and gain experience by serving in rural, urban, and tribal areas.:::



Career Guidance Seminar Held at Aditya University



Gandepalli, August 5: The Department of Petroleum and Mining at Aditya University, Surampalem, organised a career guidance seminar titled "Design Your Destiny." Alumni P.T. Venkatesh (Assistant Driller, Abu Dhabi), R. Abhilash (Safety Head, Dubai), and I. Dinesh, CEO & Founder of Destiny Innovation Hub, addressed students on career opportunities in the petroleum and mining sectors, industry-required skills, leadership, personality development, and career planning. University officials encouraged

aged students to enhance their skills to meet industry demands and achieve their career goals.

Chittoor, Nellore Register Convincing Wins in South Zone U-23 Women's One-Day Tournament at Valmikipuram



Valmikipuram, August 5: Chittoor District Cricket Association, in association with the Andhra Cricket Association, is conducting the South Zone Under-23 Women's One-Day Tournament at the CDCA-GVSCS Grounds in Valmikipuram. In Wednesday's matches, Chittoor and Nellore registered comprehensive victories over their respective opponents. In the Ground-1 match, Chittoor won the toss and elected to field first. Their bowlers justified the decision by restricting Anantapur to 219/6 in 50

overs. For Anantapur, P. Mahitha scored 33, B. Hima Varshini made 46, and A. Hansi Reddy contributed 34 runs. Chittoor bowlers A. Vishnu Priya, M. Rukhsar Tabassum, S.D. Vaishnavi, E. Geya Keerthi, and K. Shubha Sri claimed one wicket each. Chasing a target of 220, Chittoor comfortably reached 220/3 in 42.3 overs. Star batter K. Shubha Sri remained unbeaten on 122 off 126 balls, while M. Greeshma scored 58 off 86 balls, helping the team secure a convincing seven-wicket victory. For

Anantapur, B. Nandini and S. Tarannum Begum picked up one wicket each. In the Ground-2 match, Kadapa won the toss and opted to field. Batting first, Nellore piled up a massive 403/8 in 50 overs, powered by brilliant centuries from K. Jessica (107 off 103 balls) and M. Mahalakshmi Manoj (167 off 121 balls). Sai Lakshmi Sajja added a quick 32 off 17 balls. For Kadapa, V.S. Tanus hree and V. Prashamsa took three wickets each, while A. Pasyanthi Sri claimed two. In reply, Kadapa managed only 200/

8 in 50 overs despite V. Prashamsa's unbeaten 102 off 146 balls. Nellore bowlers M.K. Nikitha and K. Jessica took two wickets each, while Shaik Jilmel Saiba, Shravana Vaishnavi, and K. Janvi Sri claimed one wicket apiece. Nellore sealed a commanding 203-run victory.

K. Jessica emerged as the standout performer of the match with an excellent all-round display, scoring 107 runs and taking 2 wickets for 27 runs. The details were announced by Chittoor District Cricket Association President Srinivasamurthy, Vice-President Sridhar Kumar, and Secretary Satish Yadav. The tournament is being conducted under the supervision of Chittoor Head Coach Sunil Kumar. Coaches Anitha (Chittoor), Mounika (Kadapa), Yamini (Nellore), Shekhar and Madhavi (Kurnool), trainer Reddy Raghavendra, Ground In-charge Bharath Kumar, and members of GVSCS were present on the occasion.

Sub-Collector inspects Fair Price Shop No. 1081036 & 1081033 in Madanapalle Urban

Madanapalle, August 05: Annamayya district Sub-Collector inspected Fair Price Shop No.1081036 in Madanapalle. As part of this, stock registers, distribution registers and other statutory records were examined. Also, the stock available in the Fair Price Shop was physically inspected and compared with the records, the distribution process to the beneficiaries was reviewed, the beneficiaries were interacted with and the public's views and comments were collected on the functioning of the Fair Price Shop. Subsequently, the Mandal level stock point was inspected, the maintenance of Mandal level stock point records and registers was checked, physical inspection of the stock available in the godown was conducted, the types of essential commodities being received, stored and distributed were reviewed, the arrangement and storage method of the goods in the godown was observed, the porters (loading/unloading workers) were interacted with to gather information about the handling and operational methods of the



goods, the contractor details were verified and the logistics and transport arrangements were assessed.

Sambhal Mosque Survey Violence Was Pre-Planned Conspiracy, Says Judicial Commission Report



Lucknow: The violence that broke out during the survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal on November 24, 2024 was the result of a pre-planned conspiracy, according to the report of a three-member judicial commission headed by retired Justice Devendra Kumar Arora. The commission has held that Sambhal MP Zia ur Rahman Barq, Suhail Iqbal, son of Samajwadi Party MLA Iqbal Mehmood, and office-bearers of the Jama Masjid Intazamia Committee played a key role in creating an atmosphere that led to the violence. The report alleged that they spread misinformation, instigated the crowd and prepared the ground for the clashes. According to the report, preparations to create tension began immediately after the first phase of the mosque survey on November 19 remained incomplete. It said the accused allegedly spread rumours among members of the Muslim community that the survey was an attempt to seize or demolish the mosque. The commission noted that the court order was limited to

issues related to maintenance of the protected monument and public access under the Ancient Monuments law and did not authorise any action concerning ownership or demolition.

The report said that on the morning of November 24, a large crowd gathered around the mosque before raising slogans, pelting stones, opening fire and setting vehicles on fire. Many members of the mob had covered their faces. The commission also referred to the role of Jama Masjid Intazamia Committee presi-

dent Zafar Ali, secretary Mashhood Ali Farooqui and other committee office-bearers in the events leading to the violence. Four people were killed in the clashes. However, the commission, citing postmortem and ballistic examination reports, concluded that none of the deaths was caused by police firing. It also noted that the families of the deceased had lodged cases against unidentified persons.

The report said 28 police personnel were injured in the violence, including seven who sustained bul-

let injuries. Several senior officers, including the Sambhal Superintendent of Police, were also hurt. The mob allegedly attempted to snatch police weapons and other equipment during the clashes. The commission commended the district administration and police for their handling of the situation, saying adequate deployment of security personnel, barricading and restrained use of force prevented the violence from escalating into a large-scale communal riot. It observed that the police did not use lethal weapons, which helped avert wider unrest in the state. The report also referred to Sambhal's history of communal violence, noting that the town has witnessed several such incidents in the past, including the devastating riots of 1978. The commission recommended measures to prevent similar incidents in the future, stressing that court orders must be respected and that attempts to challenge the rule of law through mob action cannot be allowed.

Etah Man Alleges Assault By Village Head After Instagram Post Seeking Lane Construction; FIR Registered

Etah: A man has alleged that he was assaulted by a village head and his associates in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district after he posted an Instagram story urging the gram pradhan to get a lane constructed, prompting police to lodge an FIR, officials said on Wednesday. According to the complaint lodged at Aliganj police station, Akash, an e-rickshaw driver in his 20s, had posted an Instagram story reading, "Pradhan ji gali banwa do" (Pradhan ji, please get the lane constructed), highlighting the poor condition of a village road. He alleged that the post angered village head Rishi. Akash told police that while he was recently travelling in an e-rickshaw, the accused intercepted the vehicle, forced him onto a motorcycle and took him to a nearby nursery, where the gram pradhan and his associates allegedly assaulted him with sticks, causing injuries. The complainant said he managed to escape and informed his family before approaching the police. He has sought legal action against the gram pradhan and four others. Station House Officer Rupesh Kumar Verma said an FIR had been registered on the basis of the complaint and the victim had undergone a medical examination. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation and the medical report, he said.

Is Saurav Das Paying Rs.12 Lakh Rent For Posh GK-1 Residence?

CJP Spox Claims 'Certain YouTubers & Media Channels Have Broken Into My House'

New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) chief spokesperson Saurav Das on Tuesday alleged that some YouTubers and members of the media entered his Delhi residence without permission and filmed its interiors, claiming the incident has created a serious security risk for his family. The allegations come days after videos and social media posts questioned Das' lifestyle, including claims that he pays nearly ?12 lakh in rent for a luxury residence in Greater Kailash-I (GK-1), which has now caused a political row over the CJP leader's finances and the movement's funding.

'15-20 People Gathered Outside My Home'

In a post on X, Das claimed that around 15 to 20 people gathered outside his residence on Tuesday morning, with some allegedly camping outside since the previous night. He said videos recorded from inside the house had "activated goons" and created a "grave security threat" for everyone living there. "I am currently in Maharashtra for CJP's two-day meeting," Das wrote, adding that his family remained at his residence. In an earlier SOS message, Das alleged that certain YouTubers and media channels had entered his home and were broadcasting visuals from inside the property.

Calling it an invasion of privacy, he warned that if anti-social elements targeted his residence because of the videos, those responsible for filming as well as what he described as their "troll handlers"



should be held accountable. He also tagged the Delhi Police while seeking intervention. The issue has begun attracting political attention, with some Opposition leaders expressing concern over the alleged intrusion into Das' residence, while others have continued to question the claims surrounding his lifestyle and finances. Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress MP Rajeev

Kumar in Rajya Sabha raised the issues to which Das thanked him. The controversy erupted after videos circulated after Youtube media outlet shared their walk through interview online alleging that Das was renting a luxury property in Delhi's Greater Kailash-I for around Rs.12 lakh per month, prompting criticism from political opponents and social media users who ques-

tioned the lifestyle of a leader associated with a youth-led protest movement. He was asked about his house rent but Saurav diverted the question to Abhijeet Dipke and the PM CARES Fund. A reporter went to the house Saurav Das was living in. He pays 12 lakh rent for that house. A house where he doesn't even live. He left. The episode has also renewed scrutiny over the CJP's finances and fundraising, with critics demanding greater transparency. The controversy unfolded as Das travelled to Maharashtra to attend the CJP's two-day core committee meeting, where leaders are expected to discuss the movement's future strategy, including its proposed campaign against the Centre's E20 petrol policy.

In First Public Address Since Ouster, Sheikh Hasina Alleges 2024 Unrest Was 'Coordinated Conspiracy'



from the outset and eventually evolved into a coordinated campaign designed to seize power outside the democratic process. The former prime minister claimed that her administration had attempted to resolve the crisis through dialogue and had even launched a judicial inquiry into the violence. However, she alleged that the investigation was halted after the change in government. She further claimed that more than 450 police stations, along with several government buildings, were attacked during the unrest and questioned whether law enforcement agencies should have remained passive amid the violence. Hasina also alleged that political workers, journalists, lawyers, judges, and members of minority communities had faced persecution since her departure. Despite the challenges, she said she intended to return to Bangladesh and re-enter the country's political arena.

New Delhi / Dhaka: Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday delivered her first public address since being ousted from power and leaving the country in 2024, accusing the interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus of orchestrating a carefully planned campaign to remove her government. Beginning her speech on an emotional note, Hasina paid tribute to her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the martyrs of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, and members of her family who were killed in the 1975 massacre. At several points during her address, her voice faltered as she recalled the tragedy. Hasina alleged that the student-led quota protests of July and August 2024 were transformed into a movement aimed at overthrowing her government. According to her, the demonstrations were not peaceful

Harbhajan Singh Shares Photos From Tea Meeting With PM Modi, Vows To Contribute In India's Progress

New Delhi: Former Indian cricketer and Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi over tea and shared pictures from the interaction on social media. Describing the meeting as an honour, Harbhajan said he was inspired by the Prime Minister's vision, leadership and commitment to the country's progress. Sharing photos from the meeting on his official social media account, Harbhajan wrote, "It was an honour to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji today. Inspired by his vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to India's progress. Looking forward to contributing in every possible way towards building a stronger and more prosperous nation."

The pictures showed Harbhajan Singh and other leaders sharing tea with the Prime Minister during an informal interaction before



greeting him with a handshake. Several other dignitaries were also present at the gathering. The meeting comes after Harbhajan welcomed climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's decision to end his 26-day hunger strike. In a post on X, the Rajya Sabha MP said,

"Glad to see @Wangchuk66 Ji end his fast. Dialogue over deadlock and trust over division is always the better path. Every student dreaming of a better education is dreaming of a stronger India." He also appealed to people to "listen with empathy, en-

gage through dialogue, and work together toward lasting solutions," adding that "Our youth deserve nothing less." Harbhajan expressed confidence that all stakeholders would arrive at a solution that serves the best interests of students and the nation.

Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad Accuses BMC Of Misusing Funds Over Rs.2.9-Crore Mayor Bungalow Upgrade Proposal

Mumbai Congress president and MP Varsha Gaikwad accused the BJP-led Mahayuti government and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) of misusing public funds by approving expensive upgrades to the Mayor's official residence while basic civic services remain neglected. Addressing the media, Gaikwad alleged that after the controversy over the proposed purchase of luxury cars for corporators, the civic administration is now planning to spend another Rs 2.9 crore on luxury facilities at the Mayor's bungalow, despite having spent Rs 2.4 crore on the property just four months ago. She said taxpayers' money should be used to improve public amenities rather than fund what she described as "lavish comforts" for elected representatives. The Congress leader claimed that Mumbai continues to grapple with poor roads, waterlogging during the monsoon, an overburdened public healthcare system, inadequate staffing and medicine shortages in civic hospitals, insufficient funding for municipal schools, and the deteriorating condition of the city's BEST bus service.



Paper leaks becoming national crisis, may raise issue with Centre: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

Ranchi: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has, for the second time within 24 hours, commented on the ongoing students agitation in Ranchi over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations, saying that issues such as paper leaks and examination-related malpractices are no longer confined to Jharkhand but are emerging as a national crisis. He said he would even speak to the Union Home Minister, if required, to ensure justice for students. The state government, he added, is closely monitoring the situation and would present concrete results once the ongoing investigations are completed. Addressing reporters after meeting Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar at Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday, Soren said the government's doors were open to everyone and any individual or group with grievances could approach the administration. He assured that all demands would be examined seriously and addressed appropriately. The Chief Min-



ister said agencies concerned were investigating matters related to students and recruitment examinations, while the government continued to closely track the progress of the probes. He reiterated that no injustice would be allowed against the youth and that the administration was committed to ensuring a fair outcome.

Soren noted that the alleged paper leak issue was no longer restricted to Jharkhand, claiming that similar incidents had sur-

faced in several other states as well. However, he alleged that effective action had not been taken elsewhere. He said the entire sequence of events had been conveyed to the Governor during their meeting. The Chief Minister further said that Governor Gangwar had recently visited Delhi and met the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister, during which a range of issues relating to Jharkhand were discussed. If necessary, he added, the state government would also raise the

paper leak issue with the Centre. Meanwhile, in a statement issued by Raj Bhavan, Governor Gangwar stressed the need to maintain transparency, fairness and public confidence in examination processes. He said recruitment commissions must function in a manner that leaves no room for doubts over their credibility. Soren assured the Governor that the Jharkhand government remained committed to securing justice for students and ensuring impartial action in the matter.

Air India Appoints Tewolde Gebremariam as New CEO, But His Remuneration Is Yet To Be Revealed

Mumbai: Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam as its new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, but the salary attached to the role remains unknown. Neither the Tata Group nor Air India has publicly disclosed his fixed pay, bonuses or long-term incentives. News Alert ! Tewolde Gebremariam succeeds Campbell Wilson, who resigned as Air India CEO and MD in April this year. The latest available benchmark is the remuneration

approved for outgoing CEO Campbell Wilson. His package, effective from 1 April 2025, allowed him to earn up to Rs 27.75 crore annually, representing a 46 percent increase from the Rs 18.98 crore he earned in 2023-24. The structure included a fixed salary of Rs 11.1 crore, performance-linked bonuses of Rs 8.32 crore and long-term stock incentives worth another Rs 8.32 crore. Benefits and allowances were reportedly separate. Mint Nearly 60 percent of Wilson's maximum package



was linked to Air India's operational and financial performance. This meant a large part of his earnings depended on whether the airline met key business

goals. Wilson's package may provide a useful reference for Gebremariam's expected pay. However, it does not confirm what the new CEO will receive.

Government Asks Meta Executives To Comply With Indian Laws: Sources



New Delhi:The government has directed Meta's top global executives to comply with Indian laws during their first round of talks today, sources said, with the brief removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post and circulation of abusive content on their platform being among the key issues discussed. Meta executives met Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary S Krishnan and other government officials for about 45 minutes this morning, sources said. During the meeting, government officials flagged concerns over arbitrary takedowns of

posts and selective enforcement, in view of the temporary takedown of PM Modi's video on July 23. They also clarified the direction to social media platforms to comply with Indian laws was not aimed at curbing free speech, sources said. The Meta representatives, including global public policy head Joel Kaplan, explained the reasons behind such takedowns, they said. They informed the officials that they have stringent moderation and fact-checking systems, they stressed. They further said that misuse of their platforms is neither deliberate nor knowingly allowed, sources said. A second

round of meetings is scheduled tomorrow, sources added. The meetings come amid the government's scrutiny of Meta after PM Modi's video, in which he addressed the youth and promised strict action against paper leaks, was briefly restricted on Facebook on July 23. Meta quickly restored the post after receiving a major backlash. The Meta team is also scheduled to meet Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw later in the day. Earlier this week, Meta officials faced tough questions from the government at a meeting with the Parliamentary panel over the incident. While the company apologised for

what it described as a "technical glitch" that led to the removal of the video, the IT ministry said the explanation was "not reasonable". Government officials maintained that if the removal was indeed caused by a glitch, Meta, as a technology company, should improve its own tools to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. PM Modi's post, first shared on Instagram and later on Facebook on July 23, was his first direct selfie video aimed at engaging with the youth and highlighting the government's commitment to cracking down on paper leaks amid student protests at the time. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee on Communications and Information Technology issued a three-day ultimatum to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg to apologise for the brief removal of PM Modi's video and take action against those responsible. The panel, chaired by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, said the deletion of PM Modi's video - who is the representative of 1.4 billion Indians - is an "attack on democracy".

Special Session From August 16 To 18 For Women's Quota, Delimitation Bills

New Delhi:The government has likely proposed a special three-day session regarding the Delimitation and Women's Reservation Amendment Bill to the Opposition, including the Congress, sources have told NDTV. The government has likely informed the Congress that it intends to call a special Parliamentary Session, sources added. "No proposal to extend any dates of Parliament session. Special session from August 16 to 18 on Women's Reservation and Delimitation Bills," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told news agency ANI, confirming the development. The Congress has stated that it will convey its decision, sources said, after consulting within the party and with other opposition parties. The pro-

posed Bill had earlier failed to pass through the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session in April as the government could not muster the required two-thirds majority for the Constitution Amendment. During the April vote, 528 MPs were present, making the two-thirds majority mark 352. The government secured 298 votes against 230 opposing the bill, resulting in its defeat by a margin of 54 votes. The government has now significantly narrowed that gap. The government is looking to push through the contentious Bill as it believes it has the numbers: thanks to defections from the Trinamool Congress and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena. The NDA is also nearing a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha. The ongoing Monsoon Session

of Parliament has witnessed continued adjournments amid demands for the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the House proceedings over 'police action' against CJP protesters on 20th July, the alleged Ayodhya Ram Mandir donations embezzlement row and other issues. The sources said the meeting, which took place at Gandhi's office in Parliament House, was a "confidence-building measure" from the government's side. It was Rijiju's second meeting with Gandhi in last 10 days. After meeting Gandhi, Rijiju also met Home Minister Amit Shah at his office in Parliament House. Sources said Rijiju will also reach out to other opposition parties, including Samajwadi Party

president Akhilesh Yadav, in an effort to break the deadlock. Since the Monsoon session began on July 20, the Lok Sabha has not been able to complete its Question Hour. Five bills have been passed without discussion amid din. "Sloganeering, whether inside or outside the House, is not good for democracy. By showing placards and sloganeering you are lowering the dignity of the House," Speaker Om Birla told Opposition members. Birla said many members have approached him saying that important questions are listed but the House is not able to take up the Question Hour due to the disruption created by the Opposition in the ongoing Monsoon Session.

48 Dead In Worst-Hit Sivasagar As Assam Flood Death Count Reaches 88



As floodwaters continue to wreak havoc across Assam, Sivasagar has emerged as the worst-affected district, accounting for more than half of the state's 88 flood-related deaths. With 48 fatalities reported so far, shattered homes, damaged livelihoods, and marooned villages have laid bare the scale of devastation in the district. "In Sivasagar district, most flood-related deaths were reported from Nazira (29), followed by Sivasagar (9). Six people died in Sonari Revenue Circle,

while two deaths each were reported from Amguri and Demow. The floods have severely impacted people's lives across the district, and many homes have been damaged," an official said. According to official figures, after Sivasagar, the highest number of flood deaths was recorded in Charaideo, where 29 people were swept away by rivers. Other districts that reported fatalities include Jorhat (9), Golaghat (4), Dhemaji (1), Sonitpur (1), Karbi Anglong (2), and

Kamrup Metro (1). Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Wednesday visited flood-hit areas in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts to assess the situation on the ground and interact with families affected by the disaster, which has devastated large parts of Upper Assam. Nadda travelled by tractor to reach marooned villages and relief camps, where he reviewed the extent of the damage and took stock of the living conditions of displaced residents. Speaking to reporters,

Nadda said the Centre was extending full financial assistance to Assam and that central teams were already assessing the scale of the flood damage. "On behalf of the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I assure Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the people of Assam that there will be no shortage of relief assistance. Complete financial support is being extended to the state," Nadda said. Sharing details of the visit on X, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "Interacted with people in a flood relief camp and took stock of the ongoing relief efforts. We have assured affected families that they will be suitably compensated for damage to homes, cattle and other sources of livelihood." "The floods have taken so much from you. It is now our responsibility to help you rebuild. Together, through determination and hard work, we will recover and move forward once again," Sarma said.

Proposal To Swap Lands With Myanmar Soon To Demarcate Border? What India Said

As India undertakes an exercise to secure its borders and demarcate boundaries, reports of the union government examining an internal proposal to exchange approximately 1.44 square miles of territory with Myanmar has led security analysts to believe that India is preparing a landmark Land Boundary Agreement with Myanmar along the sensitive India-Myanmar border.

When the Ministry of External Affairs was asked to clarify on speculation that India has sought to exchange territory to demarcate the border as fencing work is going on, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "There are certain areas on the border between the two countries which are still to be settled and discussions on those particular sectors are going on between the two sides." The proposal of a potential swap could provide a solution to the long held up border demarcation in sensitive areas like Manipur's Chandel district and ensure border fencing continues at the desired pace to address security challenges in the region. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement confirms that talks on unsettled border sectors are ongoing, though no final swap has been announced officially. Since 2023, India has been expediting border fencing and regional infrastructure in the area and a land swap could be a solution to remove security vulnerabilities due to an unfenced border. India and Myanmar share a 1,643-kilometre (1,021 miles) border in four northeastern states which are Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. Out of the 1,643



kilometres, Arunachal Pradesh has 520 km border, Mizoram has a 510 km border, Manipur has 398 km border and Nagaland has a 215 km border with Myanmar. The civil war and political instability in Myanmar post-2021 have posed new challenges for India as it has triggered refugee influxes, aggravating internal ethnic tensions in Manipur. Recent friction has also involved delayed India's border fencing projects. In December 2025, a section of the newly constructed border fencing was cut up and an FIR was also registered after the incident at the Molcham Police Station in Chandel district of Manipur. India is fencing its 398-kilometer international border with Myanmar in Manipur to stop illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and cross-border insurgent movement. The Union Government decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar. The Free Movement Regime (FMR)-previously allowed

tribes living along the border to travel 16 kilometers into each other's territories without visas or documents-to tighten security. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has said that union government is committed to building impenetrable borders. In February 2024, in a post on X, the Union Home Minister said, "It has been decided to construct a fence along the entire 1643-kilometer-long Indo-Myanmar border. To facilitate better surveillance, a patrol track along the border will also be paved". In the same post, the Union Home Minister added that "Out of the total border length, a 10 km stretch in Moreh, Manipur, has already been fenced. Furthermore, two pilot projects of fencing through a Hybrid Surveillance System (HSS) are under execution. They will fence a stretch of 1 km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Additionally, fence works covering approx 20 km in Manipur have also been approved, and the work will start soon". BJP Rajya Saba MP from Manipur, Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba said the main reason for the

slow progress of the project is the high number of disturbances related to border fencing in the Manipur sector. Leishemba added that theft of fencing materials, damage to iron poles and detection of explosives along the border areas have posed a serious challenge to the fencing work. In March this year, Former Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, said, "According to the latest data provided by the Ministry to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, of the total 1,643 km of fencing approved by the government, 390.39 km has been sanctioned and only 43.75 km of fencing has been completed so far. A further 346.64 km is currently under construction. It is also noteworthy that 20 out of 43 designated gates to regulate free movement of people are now operational." "With this progress, we will be able to launch a strong crackdown on illegal immigration and regulate movement through the amended Free Movement Regime (FMR), with biometrics as part of the strengthened framework," N Biren Singh added.

"Show Restraint, Pacify Youngsters": Top Court To Cops Days After CJP Protest



New Delhi:Exercise restraint, was the message from the Supreme Court to the law enforcement agencies on Wednesday as it agreed to hear a plea seeking action against organisers of the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' march for allegedly inciting violence. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana tagged the plea, filed by a retired Air Force officer, with a similar petition. "Fifteen days have passed. I am seeing that the organisers of such a mayhem in the national capital, in a high-security zone, are, even after 15 days, moving from channel to channel on a silver platter, still giving provocative statements, still not allowing the fire to die down, still fanning it," Advocate Rizwan Ahmed, appearing for petitioner Maneesh Kumar Solanki, said. Referring to a recent law and order incident

in Rajasthan, the lawyer argued that governments should not "bend backwards" to a c o m m o d a t e protesters. "One young man has died. If the government bends backwards in a matter concerning the national capital, will it not set a precedent in Rajasthan? There also the government will bend backwards to accommodate students. Tomorrow, if degree college students in Lucknow have some demand and start pelting stones at buses, will the government in Uttar Pradesh also bend backwards?" he submitted. Responding to his submission, the Chief Justice said even if some "misguided elements" indulge in stone-throwing, youngsters are required to be pacified and counselled.

"If some misguided elements indulge in stone-pelting, even then the youngsters are required to be pacified and counselled. They need advice and counselling. Any aggressive approach from the side of the mighty State may socially aggravate the situation and precipitate further violence. That needs to be avoided," the Chief Justice said. The lawyer contended that those involved in stone-pelting should not be allowed to go scot-free without any consideration merely because the government was on the "wrong foot". "This is a very dangerous precedent. Three years back, the farmers were at the Singhu border. Tomorrow, Generation Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta will come. Will the people from the Singhu border tomorrow come to Parliament with their tractors? Will the people from Shaheen Bagh tomorrow come to Parliament with their tractors?" the lawyer said. "If 500 people had entered Parliament, who knows whether they

were carrying a country-made gun? What if they had opened fire? They were not marching on a national highway. They were not marching on a railway line. They were marching towards the temple of democracy. Everyone must be held accountable," he argued. The Chief Justice observed that the focus should be on ensuring peaceful protests while exercising restraint if an incident occurs. "What is important is to promote a peaceful march. If some incident takes place, the police also need to exercise a great deal of restraint to ensure that the situation does not go out of hand. Wherever such incidents take place, we need to deal with them very carefully. We need to tread carefully so that these youngsters do not indulge in violence. The better course is to counsel them and pacify them. The most powerful tool is listening. Listen to them and understand why they are shouting. But let us leave it to the wisdom of the law-enforcement agencies. They know better than you, and they know better than us, how to deal with this kind of situation," the Chief Justice said. The plea also sought directions to identify those students who allegedly used derogatory language against police and security personnel and require them to perform community service.

Auqib Nabi has magic in his wrists, knew he would go places: Ex-J&K captain Samiullah Beigh



New Delhi: In a modern cricketing landscape obsessed with speed guns, former Jammu and Kashmir captain Samiullah Beigh believes true quality lies in the ability to move the ball off the pitch, a trait he identified in fellow fast-bowling all-rounder Auqib Nabi.

Nabi's sensational rise has earned him a maiden call-up to the Indian Test squad for the upcoming two-match series against Sri Lanka, thus making him the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to get a call-up to the national red-ball side.

Beigh, who also works as an assistant engineer in the Public Works Department in Srinagar, spoke exclusively to IANS about the all-rounder, the physical and mental endurance essential in unearthing relentless seamers in the valley, and how overcoming adversity makes players from smaller states uniquely tenacious.

Excerpts-

Q. Back in 2022, you mentioned somewhere that Auqib Nabi is someone to watch out for. Now that he has been called up to the Indian Test team as Jasprit Bumrah's replacement, how does it feel to see that prediction become a reality?

A. Yes, back in 2022, I held a two-month coaching camp for the senior Ranji team at the JKCA ground in Srinagar. I could see raw talent in him, wherein he could move the ball off the pitch from the same spot without any major change in action.

Having played at higher level myself as a fast-bowling all-rounder, I immediately spotted

of control to the team if given a chance, and he will surely make the new ball talk at least for a few overs.

Q. You have spoken previously about how you would carry drinks for the zonal team despite being amongst the wickets as players from traditional powerhouse states were mainly in the playing eleven. With Auqib in the Test team and six J&K players recently making the North Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy, do you feel that systemic bias has finally been dismantled?

A. No, systemic bias takes a lot to overcome – it is an inherent bias. Although live broadcasts and J&K creating history by winning the Ranji Trophy have helped, I believe the mindset of selectors and people who matter has still not overcome that block regarding selecting players from J&K. If that were not the case, Auqib should have been selected for the tours of England, the West Indies, or Afghanistan, or at least in the first-choice squad for the Sri Lanka series.

Q. Coach Ajay Sharma mentioned that J&K cricketers used to be picked for the Duleep Trophy merely as 'quota players.' As a former player, what does it mean to you to see J&K players now single-handedly pulling their team into winning the Ranji Trophy and commanding spots in the Duleep Trophy on merit?

A. This statement by coach Ajay Sharma exactly highlights that the bias towards cricketers from this part of the country hasn't gone away. There was never a quota system. If that were so, I recall at least two instances where I was not picked for the North Zone squad despite being the highest wicket-taker in the league round of the Ranji Trophy. Simply put, the selectors wouldn't take our performances seriously, and I think not much has changed.

Q: Former J&K players Abdul Qayoom and Mohammed Mudhasir have spoken a lot about the fast bowling talent in J&K. What exactly is it about the J&K cricketing environment that breeds fast bowlers with such

relentless stamina?

A. Fast bowling is about genes and passion. Here, we are naturally well-built and very passionate about fast bowling from a very young age. Plus, our diet and climate help build the stamina and strength needed for a fast bowler to survive the test of time and longevity. Most of our good fast bowlers have served for a decade or so. For instance, Abid Nabi and I played for about 16 to 17 years for the senior J&K Ranji team.

Q. A few years ago, you stated that for J&K to truly capitalize on its gold mine of fast bowlers, the BCCI and JKCA needed to appoint a permanent fast-bowling coach and trainer. With the rise of first Umran and now Auqib, is that need fulfilled, or are the players still relying mostly on raw talent and short-term mentorship?

A. Yes, the JKCA has to appoint a full-time, all-weather bowling consultant for J&K fast bowlers, and not just for one season. Fast bowling is about preparing in off-season and pre-season camps, when J&K currently has no coach available to train and groom fast bowlers across various age groups. The J&K Cricket Association would do well to think along those lines.

Q. What immediate impact do you think Nabi sharing a dressing room with Mohammed Siraj and the Indian support staff will have on the young fast bowlers currently training back in Baramulla, Srinagar and various parts of J&K?

A. Waiting makes you mentally strong and hungry to grab opportunities with both hands. MS Dhoni once said that players from smaller states are mentally stronger than those coming from bigger ones, and I can very well relate to it. We are built to deal with adversity and take things in our stride right from our childhood days.

Everything we achieve now feels like a bonus because, given the adversity we have seen, not many expect us to reach those levels. And when we do, we don't look back. I am sure Auqib will do wonders in the days to come.

P.V. Sindhu unveils vision for sports excellence centre in Andhra Pradesh



Hyderabad: Double Olympics medallist P.V. Sindhu and the Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh unveiled the vision for the P.V. Sindhu Centre for Sports Excellence in Visakhapatnam, marking the public launch of a landmark non-profit institution that aims to redefine sports development in India. Conceived by the former World Champion and Padma Bhushan awardee P.V. Sindhu, the Centre is being developed as an integrated sports and education ecosystem that brings together seven sporting disciplines, high-performance coaching, sports science, recovery, nutrition, strength and conditioning, and academics under one campus. The ceremony marked more than the laying of a foundation stone. Construction is already well underway, with the basement and substructure complete and the superstructure taking shape. The project's vision evolved significantly following discussions with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who encouraged Sindhu and her husband, Venkata Datta Sai, to think not just about the next few years, but the next hundred. What began as a badminton academy has since grown into a long-term institution designed to serve generations of athletes and students. Inspired by visits to some of the world's leading high-performance sports facilities, including

Aspetar in Doha and the Inspire Institute of Sport, the centre has been designed around the belief that elite performance is created through the seamless integration of coaching, science, recovery, education and culture. The nearly two-lakh-square-foot campus will feature international-standard facilities, including specialised badminton infrastructure, a 25-metre competition swimming pool, Andhra Pradesh's first 25-metre shooting range, integrated sports science and recovery spaces, and an on-campus school that will enable young athletes to pursue both education and sport without compromise. Located in Visakhapatnam, the centre seeks to establish the city as a national destination for sport, education and high-performance training while creating wider opportunities through coaching, talent identification, research partnerships and community outreach. P.V. Sindhu said, "This centre is my most meaningful contribution to Indian sport. I am committing much of what I have earned throughout my career towards building an institution that creates opportunities for future generations. My dream is to create an ecosystem where young athletes have access to world-class coaching, sports science, education and the support they need to realise their full potential. I also appeal to corporates and philanthro-

pists to join us in this journey through CSR and long-term collaboration, so together we can build an institution that will serve generations to come." Mr. Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister For Human Resources Development, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications and RTG, said, "P. V. Sindhu has brought immense pride to India through her remarkable achievements on the global stage. With the establishment of the P. V. Sindhu Centre For Sports Excellence, she is creating a lasting legacy by inspiring and nurturing the next generation of champions." "This initiative perfectly aligns with the vision of the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu Garu to transform Andhra Pradesh into a leading sporting destination with world-class infrastructure and opportunities for young talent. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is proud to partner in this landmark initiative and remains committed to creating an ecosystem where every aspiring athlete has the opportunity to dream big, train with the best, and represent India with distinction. I congratulate Sindhu, her family, and all the partners associated with this inspiring endeavour, which will shape the future of Indian sport for generations to come." The Centre is expected to be completed by May 2028, when it will welcome its first generation of athletes and students.

Mitchell Marsh arrives at Sunrisers, Sam Curran moves to Durban Super Giants for SA20 Season 5



Johannesburg: Australia's T20 skipper Mitchell Marsh is set to make his SA20 debut for the three-time champions, Sunrisers Eastern Cape, while England all-rounder Sam Curran will don the Durban's Super Giants jersey after moving from MI Cape Town, as the six SA20 franchises secured their core squads ahead of the Season 5 auction on October 7. Marsh will join Quinton de Kock, Matthew Breetzke, Jordan Hermann and captain Tristan Stubbs in a strong batting line-up at Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC), while Curran, who represented MI Cape Town in the first two seasons, will team up with his England teammate Jos Buttler. Joe Root, who returned as England's Test captain and formed a formidable opening partnership with young Luan-dre Pretorius for the Paarl Royals a couple of seasons ago, will return to the familiar surroundings of Boland Park for the upcoming season of the T20 tournament. Run-

ners-up Pretoria Capitals have received a major boost to their top order with the additions of Phil Salt and Australian international Matt Short. Salt, who previously represented the Capitals, will reunite with Short at the top of the order. The duo is expected to add more firepower to a batting line-up featuring Dewald Brevis, Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell and last season's breakout star, Connor Esterhuizen. England all-rounder Will Jacks, who had three fruitful seasons with the Capitals, has moved to MI

Cape Town to complete the trio of MI franchises, having previously represented the Mumbai Indians in the IPL and currently playing for the MI London setup in The Hundred. Meanwhile, Durban's Super Giants and Paarl Royals are the only two teams to have completed their 19-player squads before the auction, with 19 slots still available across the remaining four teams. SA20 League Commissioner and former Proteas skipper Graeme Smith said the SA20's ability to attract leading stars such as Marsh, Curran and Salt was a sign of the growing stature of the league. "Season 5 is shaping up to be our strongest yet. Bringing in a player of Mitchell Marsh's calibre alongside the class of Joe Root, Sam Curran and Phil Salt shows the growing pull of our league on the global stage," said Smith. "What excites me most is seeing that quality alongside South Africa's international and domestic stars at the peak of their powers," he added. "The franchises head into the auction with the majority of their squads already locked in, which speaks volumes about

the stability and consistency we have built. This sets us up for a highly competitive Season 5." Major League Cricket-winning skipper Jason Holder will don the Joburg Super Kings jersey. Super Kings are looking for a new captain after parting ways with Faf du Plessis, who led the side for the first four seasons.

Among the other prominent players released is England wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow, who formed a formidable opening partnership with De Kock for the Sunrisers. MI Cape Town have also parted ways with long-serving players Trent Boult, Rassie van der Dussen and Kieron Pollard, while Wiaan Mulder and Nandre Burger, who were marquee signings for the Super Kings, will also enter the auction pool. SA20 Season 5 will get underway on January 17 next year, with the Sunrisers taking on the Capitals in a repeat of last season's final. The final is scheduled for February 21 at Newlands. Mitchell Marsh joins Sunrisers Eastern Cape, Sam Curran signs for Durban's Super Giants ahead of SA20 Season 5 auction.

PCB warns players of ban for participating in unsanctioned cricket events

Lahore: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has warned former Pakistan cricketers against participating in unsanctioned overseas tournaments, announcing a series of disciplinary measures for those found to have featured in the ongoing 20th Asian Legends League in Zambia without obtaining the mandatory approvals. In an official statement, the PCB said it had taken serious notice of the participation of certain former Pakistan players in the tournament, which the International Cricket Council (ICC) has classified as an unsanctioned or disapproved cricket event under the ICC Regulations on the Sanctioning of Events and Player Release. The PCB also noted that the competition has not been sanctioned by the Zambia Cricket Union (ZCU), making participation in the event a violation of the applicable ICC regulations.

India's Glasgow 2026 para champions honoured by M3M Foundation and PCI



Hyderabad: In recognition of India's historic performance at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, M3M Foundation, in partnership with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), felicitated the country's medal-winning para athletes and their coaches for their outstanding achievements on the international stage. The ceremony honoured India's seven Commonwealth Games para medallists, who delivered the nation's best-ever performance in para events at the Games by winning seven medals — three gold, two silver and two bronze. The athletes felicitated included Sharmila Dhankar (Gold – Women's Shot Put F57), Shilpa Shyla (Bronze – Women's Shot Put F57), Jhandu Kumar (Bronze – Para Powerlifting), Soman Rana (Gold – Men's F57 shot put), Shubham Juyal (Silver – Men's F 57 shot put), Dilip Manadu Gavit (Gold – 100 m T47), Mohammed Basil (Silver – 100 m T 47) The event also

recognised the invaluable contribution of the coaches and support staff whose dedication has played a vital role in India's growing success in para sports. Speaking on the occasion, Devendra Jhajharia, President, Paralympic Committee of India, said "Our athletes have once again shown the world what determination, resilience and hard work can achieve. This historic performance is not just a medal tally, it is a testament to years of commitment from our athletes, coaches and the entire support system. I sincerely thank M3M Foundation for recognising our champions and standing firmly with the Paralympic movement. Such partnerships play a crucial role in helping our athletes dream bigger and achieve greater success". Dr. Payal Kanodia, Chairperson, Paralympic Committee of India, said "Every medal won in Glasgow is far more than a sporting achievement, it is a testament to extraordinary

resilience, unwavering determination, and the indomitable spirit of the human will. Behind every podium finish lies years of relentless discipline, sacrifice, and the steadfast guidance of coaches, families, and support teams who have shaped these remarkable journeys. Today, we celebrate not just victories, but the triumph of courage over adversity. My goal is to build a more inclusive, athlete-centric sporting ecosystem that empowers every para athlete with world-class opportunities, infrastructure, and support to realise their fullest potential. While this success marks a defining moment for India, it is not the destination, it is the beginning of a larger movement to establish our nation as a global powerhouse in para sports, where every athlete, irrespective of ability, is empowered to dream without limits and compete with confidence on the world stage".

Karikaala 1st Look: Sundeeep Kishan's Fierce Warrior Avatar



Sundeeep Kishan's pan-India project with director Ugandhar Muni has been titled Karikaala, and the makers have accompanied the announcement with a remarkable first-look poster that showcases the film's massive ambitions. Unlike anything seen in Sundeeep Kishan's career so far, the actor is introduced as a fierce warrior in an enchanting fantasy landscape.

Mounted on horseback with a sword in hand and accompanied by a roaring lion, his commanding presence immediately establishes the film's epic scale and adventurous tone. Set against the backdrop of an imaginative world inspired by classic Chandamama fairy tales, Karikaala promises a magical journey filled with mythical creatures, powerful

kingdoms, ancient legends, wolves, lions, and supernatural elements. For Sundeeep Kishan, Karikaala represents an entirely new creative direction. His never-before-seen makeover, distinctive costume, and intense warrior persona underline the scale of preparation that has gone into bringing this unique character to life. Produced by Mahidhar Reddy

and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju under Shining Pictures, the film reunites director Ugandhar Muni with large-scale fantasy storytelling after the success of Shambhala. Sricharan Pakala scores the music. The movie has been designed as a two-part saga. Chapter 1 is scheduled for release on July 2, 2027, while Chapter 2 will follow just a few months later on October 28, 2027.

Kareena In Talks For Dhanush-Bhansali's Jungle Adventure?

Kareena Kapoor has reduced the number of films that she is doing in recent times. But as per the latest update, she may soon be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming mythological jungle adventure starring Dhanush. The makers are reportedly in discussions with the star as of now, and a decision will be made very soon. The film has already generated significant buzz ever since reports emerged about the collaboration between Dhanush and Bhansali Productions. The project will be directed by Tamil filmmaker P.S. Mithran, known for films such as Irumbu Thirai, Hero, and Sardar. This will mark Mithran's Bollywood debut and his first collaboration with Dhanush.

The yet-untitled film is said to be a large-scale mythological drama set against a jungle backdrop. Reports suggest that



the script underwent multiple rewrites before being finalized by Bhansali. If Kareena comes on board, it will add even more

star power to the project, which is expected to go on the floors in early 2027. As of now, Sanjay Bhansali has kick-started the

last schedule of his crazy project Love and War featuring Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal.

SRK Cameos in South Films: Rumours or Pre Planned?

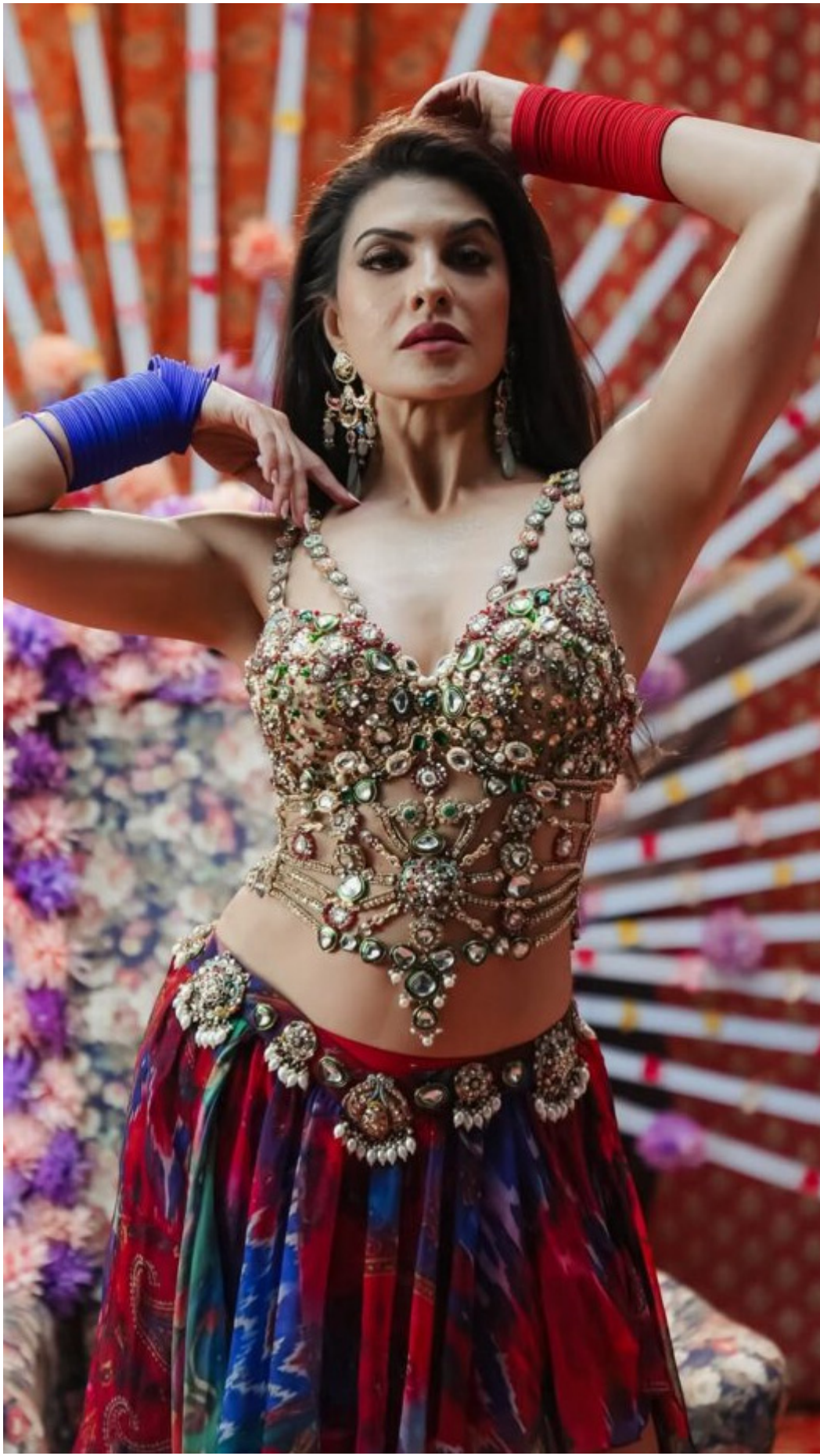
Rumours about Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan making cameo appearances in south films have once again become a topic of discussion on social media. However, many of these claims have not been backed by any credible information. Earlier, similar reports claimed that Shah Rukh Khan would make a special appearance in Jailer 2. But the rumoured cameo did not happen, raising questions about the reliability of such reports.

Now, a fresh wave of rumours suggests that Shah Rukh Khan will appear in Allu Arjun and Arlene's most ambitious film Raaka. Atlee had directed SRK's Jawan, barring that there is no base to rumours of Shah Rukh doing guest role in RAAKA. However, it's not clear whether he is past of RAAKA or not. Interestingly, every time such cameo rumours gain attention, discussions around Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film King also increase. This pattern has



caught the attention of many fans and industry observers. Some believe these are simply unverified social media rumours, while others wonder if they are part of an effort to keep Bollywood Baadshah in public discussion ahead of King's release. At present, there is no base to suggest that these rumours are part of any planned promotional strategy. Until an official announcement is made, the reports about Shah Rukh Khan's cameo in Raaka should be treated as mere rumour.

Jacqueline Fernandez Serves Desi Diva Energy Again



Jacqueline Fernandez is making headlines with her latest music video "Jugni," and the makers have now released stunning archival pictures from the shoot. The four looks showcase Jacqueline in bold, vibrant outfits, ranging from a colourful festive ensemble to a striking red bandhani-inspired look, and a sultry gold satin gown, each highlighting her glamorous range on screen. The song's release, however, was overshadowed by controversy after a clip from the video went viral online, with claims of a wardrobe malfunction. Singer Sonu Thukral has since filed a police complaint, stating that the viral footage was manipulated and AI-generated, and was never part of the original video. Amid the buzz, the makers are steering the conversation back to the song itself, sharing the official pictures from the "Jugni Archives" to remind fans of the video's actual content and Jacqueline's striking looks throughout the project.

Bhagyashree Borse's Sultry Maroon Look Turns Heads

Bhagyashree Borse is having the best phase of her career right now. With her recent film Lenin turning out to be a massive blockbuster, the actress is clearly on cloud nine, and she has taken to social media to share a fresh set of pictures celebrating the moment. In the photos, Bhagyashree looks striking in a fitted maroon one-shoulder dress with a draped detail, her hair left loose and wavy, exuding quiet confidence. The pictures, shot against a minimal backdrop, put the spotlight entirely on her poise and styling. With subtle makeup and a soft, natural glow, Bhagyashree lets the elegant silhouette of the dress do the talking. With Linen's success adding serious momentum to her career, Bhagyashree Borse is fast becoming one of the most talked-about young actresses in the industry, and her latest pictures only prove she is here to stay.

